



## Weekly Drought Brief Monday March 17, 2014

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### **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

**Recent Precipitation:** Little to no precipitation fell over the past week across the state. Precipitation totals (in inches) from Monday, March 10 through Sunday, March 16:

- **Folsom: 0.40"** in the last week. 12.17" since July 1, 69% of normal by this date.
- **Fresno: 0.00"** in the last week. 3.40" since July 1, 38% of normal by this date.
- **Hetch Hetchy: 0.08"** in the last week. 14.59" since July 1, 51% of normal by this date.
- **Los Angeles: 0.00"** in the last week. 5.47" since July 1, 46% of normal by this date.
- **Modesto: 0.09"** in the last week. 5.01" since July 1, 48% of normal by this date.
- **Oroville: 0.84"** in the last week. 15.88" since July 1, 61% of normal this date.
- **Pollock Pines: 0.36"** in the last week. 19.28" since July 1, 46% of normal by this date.
- **Redding: 0.16"** in the last week. 16.80" since July 1, 61% of normal by this date.
- **Sacramento: 0.17"** in the last week. 7.05" since July 1, 41% of normal by this date.
- **Shasta: 0.16"** in the last week. 26.60" since July 1, 52% of normal by this date.
- **Willits: 0.24"** in the last week. 26.66" since July 1, 64% of normal by this date.

**Near-term Outlook for Precipitation:** Dry conditions are expected statewide through mid-week, with record high temperatures in some place. A weak pressure front will move in by the middle of the week with cooling temperatures, but little to no precipitation is expected.

**\*\*Despite above average rain and snow in February, much of California has received only about 50% of normal precipitation for this rainy season. Heavy rain and snow would have to fall throughout California very frequently from now until May to reach average annual rain and snowfall levels. Even with such precipitation, California would remain in drought conditions, due to low water supplies in reservoirs from the two previous dry years.\*\***

**Snow survey:** The most recent [snowpack survey](#), conducted on February 27, recorded California snowpack at 24% of normal. A more [recent update](#) using automated devices shows snowpack at 28% of normal as of March 16.

**Reservoir Levels (% capacity):** [Reservoir Levels](#) as of March 15 are very low, including: Don Pedro 53%; Exchequer 22%; Folsom Lake 41%; Lake Oroville 45%; Millerton Lake 33%; New Melones 44%; Pine Flat 21%; San Luis 39%; Shasta 45%; and Trinity Lake 52%. An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

**Vulnerable Water Systems:** The California Department of Public Health is providing technical and funding assistance to help several communities facing near-term drinking water shortages and is monitoring water systems across the state to determine where else it can provide support. Updated information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website.

**Fire Danger:** 730 fires have been reported across the state since January 1, burning 1,615 acres. CALFIRE reports that this current fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 252 fires, burning 817 acres. 65 new fires were reported over the past week.

## **KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK**

### **Federal Government**

- **Interior Secretary visits Federal Water Project:** U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell travelled to California last week and visited the Jones Pumping Station in Tracy, one of the key components of the Federal Water Project. Secretary Jewell held an in-depth meeting with water contractors who are supplied by federal water reservoirs and toured the Jones Pumping Station. [She reiterated the federal government's commitment](#) to supporting California's drought response during her visit.
- **Drought assistance workshop in Northern CA:** The U.S. Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Department of Food and Agriculture will hold their 6<sup>th</sup> [local informational session](#) in Cloverdale on March 17. This session will provide information on drought resources for farmers, ranchers and farmworkers.

### **State Government**

- **Real-time water management leads to post-storm water supply:** State and federal water management agencies continue to work together to allow exports of additional water from the Delta based on storms in the last six weeks. Recent precipitation has provided a window of opportunity to capture additional water for storage both north and south of the Delta, so state and federal water projects have [increased pumping](#) for a limited time to capture as much water as possible under current regulatory standards.
- **State streamlines approvals for domestic water tanks:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the State Water Board announced that they will [expedite approval](#) of storage tanks built by rural residents for domestic water use. These storage tanks help protect drinking water supplies and increase fire safety by giving rural residents a water supply that they can manage on their own property.
- **Plan released to help fish survival and commercial fishing:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service last week released a [contingency plan](#) for the release of small fish raised in federal and state hatcheries. Due to the drought, new measures will be taken to release the hatchlings in portions of the Delta that allow for their migration to the ocean while enabling their eventual return to lay eggs and continue their life cycle.
- **State launches online center for drought information:** The Governor's Office and state agencies have launched [drought.ca.gov](#), which will provide a central, one-stop location for drought information. Agencies will continue their own drought webpages, and drought.ca.gov will include a listing of these webpages.
- **Local government toolkit now available:** The Governor's Office of Planning and Research has posted online its [drought toolkit](#) for local governments, which outline actions that communities can take to respond to the drought. Debbie Davis, Local Drought Liaison, is leading this effort ([drought.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:drought.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov), 1-916-327-0068).
- **Tribal consultation:** This week on March 21, the Governor's Tribal Advisor will hold a Statewide Consultation Call with Tribal leaders to continue discussions on drought response with Drought Task Force officials.
- **Government Facilities Training:** The Department of General Services held a water conservation training last week for facility managers from state and local governments, as well as school districts across the state, to provide information and support to their water use reduction efforts. Over 300 managers from across the state participated.

- **Cost Data:** Cal OES continues to gather drought-related costs from state agencies and local governments, which is reported weekly to the Drought Taskforce.
- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Taskforce continues to meet daily to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

### **Local Government**

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 33 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
  - **Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Santa Barbara, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba
  - **Cities:** Brooktrails Township-Mendocino County, City of Willits-Mendocino County, City of St. Helena-Napa County, City of Calistoga-Napa County, City of American Canyon-Napa County
  - **Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County, Yurok Tribe in Del Norte County, Tule River Indian Tribe in Tulare County, Karuk Tribe in Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties
  - **Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Twain Harte Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Sonoma County Water Agency, Meiners Oaks Water District, Mariposa Public Utility District
- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies [has identified](#) several hundred local water agencies that have implemented water conservation actions. These water agencies [are responding to the drought](#) by implementing conservation programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water usage and mandatory restrictions where water shortages are worst.
- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 26 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Amador, Butte, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, and Tuolumne.

### **DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

#### **[Drought.CA.Gov](#): California's Drought Information Clearinghouse**

Governor's [Proclamation of Drought Emergency](#)  
 State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save our Water](#)  
 California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)  
 California Department of Water Resources [Current Water Conditions](#)  
 California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)  
 California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)  
 California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)  
 California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#)  
 California State Water Project, [Information](#)  
 USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)  
 USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)  
 Small Business Administration Disaster Support: [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster)